

# Art on 56th **Elias Moubarak**

Born in 1985, Elias Moubarak is a Lebanese filmmaker and photographer. He majored in Communication Arts at the Lebanese American University in Beirut, with a Radio/TV/Film emphasis. He has directed short movies, including Baghdad 64, which was showcased in a number of film festivals. Moubarak also works as a freelance photographer, videographer and editor. Since 2009, his photographs have been published in several books and magazines, and were exhibited in various venues, including at his solo photography exhibition "Rust Never Sleeps" at the Centre Culturel Français in Byblos. He is currently working on his first feature documentary film, a life-long project. In the meantime, he never stops taking pictures and working on his own personal projects.

In his upcoming exhibition at Art on 56th, Moubarak will present his recent endeavor "The Wondrous & Probable Life of Mr. H".

## **Artist Statement**

Today, thanks to technology, taking a picture at any moment has become astonishingly simple. A large majority of people have a device with a camera in their pockets. Unfortunately, the result has been a monstrous overconsumption of images on social networks, applications, websites etc. The kind of images shared, desensitizes our humanity to recognize the importance of the events that define us. Very quickly, everything is documented, archived, commented, loved, shared, discussed, but less and less felt, before moving on to something else ... By collecting old photos and old albums, I project myself into a different world. You might notice that in the past, the events to be highlighted and immortalized were better chosen, often well planned, and without excess of snaps of the same episode. Therefore, as a photographer, I admire the virtuosity of my late colleagues who mastered a more complicated apparatus, who knew how to recognize key moments and celebrated life differently.

My curiosity and my interest in the past are related to the value I give to the stories told to me. It spikes an eagerness for understanding the progression of adventures and certainly feeds my imagination and inspiration to create.

So here I am, I acquired old pictures of a man who seemed to be lovely. I call him Mr. H. The dreamer in me decided that Mr. H is surrounded by magic, the fantastic, the improbable, or sometimes sensational while remaining mostly in the context of the years. Mr. H was rebellious, he was part of the resistance, a charmer, a joker always, an explorer sometimes, an avant-garde musician, the enlightened, the prodigious, the myth, the chosen one ... and thanks to the ordinary of his original photos, and he still remains somebody real, within reach, that anyone could talk to.

We would all like to be Mr. H.

Or at least know him.

Or having crossed him... just once... on some random street, or adventure...

Otherwise, your life, how would it look like in pictures?

**Elias Moubarak**

# Art on 56th

Art on 56th Gallery is an independent visual art gallery in Beirut, Lebanon. It was founded by Noha Wadi Moharram in 2012, and is rooted in Gemmayzeh, the capital's booming artistic and cultural neighborhood.

In addition to presenting a roster of local artists to an international audience, the gallery's mission is to promote both established and emerging contemporary artists from the Middle East and beyond. This results in a colorful exchange, highlighting the powerful meaning of images and creativity within a society.

The gallery exhibits artworks in a large variety of media, including painting, sculpture, work on paper, photography and video installation.

## Opening Hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 10.00 – 7.00 pm

Saturday: 10.00 – 6.00 pm

Sunday & Monday: Closed